

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 3, please amend the "SUMMARY OF INVENTION" as follows:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

92 The invention relates to a process comprising reducing a component selected from the group consisting of tungsten oxide powders and molybdenum oxide powders, in the presence of alkali metal compounds, and preparing tungsten powder, molybdenum powder, mixtures thereof, or a carbide; wherein at least two alkali metal compounds are used in a ratio so that mixed alkali tungstate or molybdate formed in an intermediate step  $((\text{Li}, \text{Na}, \text{K})_2 \text{WO}_z, (\text{Li}, \text{Na}, \text{K})_2 \text{MoO}_z)$  has a melting point of less than about  $550^\circ\text{C}$ , wherein the value of  $z$  is from 3 to 4. The invention also relates to a tungsten metal powder, a molybdenum metal powder, a tungsten carbide powder made by such a process. In one embodiment, the invention relates to a tungsten carbide powder with an average particle size of  $>50 \mu\text{m}$  FSSS.--

On page 4, please amend the first full paragraph as follows:

93 (Amended) The invention relates to a process comprising reducing a component selected from the group consisting of tungsten oxide powders and molybdenum oxide powders, in the presence of alkali metal compounds, and preparing tungsten powder, molybdenum powder, mixtures thereof, or a carbide; wherein at least two alkali metal compounds are used in a ratio so that mixed alkali tungstate or molybdate formed in an intermediate step  $((\text{Li}, \text{Na}, \text{K})_2 \text{WO}_z, (\text{Li}, \text{Na}, \text{K})_2 \text{MoO}_z)$  has a melting point of less than about  $550^\circ\text{C}$ , wherein the value of  $z$  is from 3 to 4. The invention also relates to a tungsten metal powder, a molybdenum metal powder, a tungsten carbide powder made by such a process. In one embodiment, the invention relates to a tungsten carbide powder with an average particle size of  $>50 \mu\text{m}$  FSSS.